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**Health Care & Wellness  
Committee**

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**HB 1379**

**Brief Description:** Revising the qualifications of an applicant for licensure as a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Hinkle, Green, Campbell, Cody and Morrell.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows applicants for a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser license to satisfy the education requirements if they are licensed in another state, have been practicing in that state, and have completed an advanced certification.

**Hearing Date:** 2/13/07

**Staff:** Chris Blake (786-7392).

**Background:**

A license from the Department of Health (Department) is required to practice as a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser. The practice includes duties related to selecting hearing instrument systems, taking impressions for ear molds, and using nondiagnostic procedures and equipment to determine the appropriate fit of an instrument. Applicants for a license to become a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser must (1) complete a minimum two year education program, (2) not have committed unprofessional conduct, and (3) either complete an examination or hold a license in another jurisdiction with substantially equivalent standards to Washington's.

**Summary of Bill:**

An alternative to meeting the education requirement for obtaining a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser license is established. An applicant may use the alternative if he or she demonstrates to the Department that he or she holds a current license from another jurisdiction, has been actively practicing in that jurisdiction for at least 24 of the previous 36 months, and submits proof of

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completion of advanced certification from the International Hearing Society or the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.